

Coordinator Report
June 14, 2018

We have a slate of appointments for the board's action. Let us discuss how to solicit to fill vacancies including Cemetery and Transfer Station Commission. Rosa can present the slate.

Colonial Power electric aggregation contract has been vetted by K&P and forwarded to Town Counsel. Janice K will attend our meeting and we will refresh our knowledge on this project that has been hanging fire for many years. It will change the default electric supply for everybody to a better deal than the current default. Some towns are trying to monetize this, but in the sage words of a west county selectboard member, "Why complicate a cheese pizza?"

Winchester is overlaying pavement on 78 and paving over some concerning defects. We can hear from Larry a summer construction update and timeline for our pavement. Our crew has had some 10+ ton days with hot patch.

That 20-foot square plot by the old fire station and telephone cabinet is part of the original land grant and lacks a deed. The way forward is to provide a warranty covenant deed to Verizon for the rebuild. Counsel wants us to know the Town would have to defend the grant. I would note the property has been town land since 1763 so little chance of a competing interest.

Our injured broadband installer is cleared to return to full duty next week by doctor / workers compensation. A few years ago, the Selectboard approved a joint Highway / Broadband acquisition of a used bucket truck. But at our \$15k price point the aerial gear was worn out on everything we looked at. I now proposed acquisition of a motorized boom lift for broadband; acquisition of a trailer to haul it and the backhoe, and if amenable to the Fire Association, adoption or purchase of Fire Association's shed at Highway Dept for broadband. We can make a decision about whether to keep or sell the lift at the end of the system rebuild. I found four identical units in PA in a Cummins 4 cyl diesel powered 4WD 500# lift with hydraulic leveling 60' lift asking \$13k. There would be a cost to haul it here. Procurement will need to happen, and I'd like to put the cost in FY19 (next) operating budget anyway in case we should decide to later sell it. We are in receipt of the second \$150,000 broadband grant reimbursement.

We are coming to the end of the fiscal year. The Selectboard appoint or engage our auditors. We audited in FY15 and we need to audit FY18 which closes July 15. With our new town accounting firm we and they expect to have the books closed by September. It takes some lead time to schedule the audit. I recommend we again engage the Scanlon firm.

At this meeting and the next we should undertake some fiscal year-end review. Any receivables outstanding after 6/30 need to be borrowed against if the account is in deficit or the fact reduces free cash. I believe the former TA ignored my directive based on your vote to reallocate unexpended highway general fund surplus to Snow and Ice and instead worked on something in FY11. We may have been spending some of that anticipated highway expense surplus on hot patch. We need to remember to put the costs of foreclosure on tax titled properties on the recap. We should talk about our excess capacity and DOR's view that we are not so comfortable as I perceive us to be. And this is a good time to remind departments that the FY18 Town report can be drafted while the reportable year is fresh in our minds.

I accompanied the Constable in serving the Nuisance Dog hearing notice and was able to provide the owner with some insight into the process.

Town hopes to hear from DOER about the \$1/2M competitive grant applications from Northfield and Warwick respectively for betterments at NES, WCS and Pioneer. I wrote our (Energy) liaison to explain the possible news reports about WCS closing were premature and unlikely. He assured me that would not play into their decision to award. Terms are no closure within five years.

School Committee Member Young Report:

Pioneer School Committee is looking for suggestions for where to make further budget cuts. The committee encourage folk to write SC members whose email addresses are on the Pioneer website. The full committee met in budget sub-committee mode regarding the FY19 budget this Tuesday for four hours and will continue to do so weekly. While difficult, the meeting was productive. When we adjourned on 6/12 the marked-up proposed revisions to the budget meant we needed about \$300k in further cuts and still have sports and the arts. By 6/14 the Treasurer had imputed actual expenditures in prior year and found additional expenses to recognize in health insurance premium due to ten or eleven planned lay-offs and retirements. That brought the budget to the need of \$160k in cuts and with it suggestions for things to add back into the budget. We are working in committee mode and have not actually voted anything. Because we voted the budget as a lump sum in order to set the assessment and had more work left to, the fact we voted a total means at this juncture it is wholly the superintendent's budget. I intend to move PV to a meaningful "Categorical Budget" having the hundreds of line items flow into the fifteen budget categories we established following last year's DESE, MASC, DOR, Ethics training. I am giving you my view because the school financial health is important. This is not on the agenda.